

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, claim 2 has been amended to correct certain informalities.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 10-16 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 10-16 allowed.

In the Office Action, claims 4-9 and 20 were objected to. It is believed that claims 4-9 and 20 would be allowable if written in independent form. By means of the present amendment, claims 4 and 20 have been written in independent form and new claims 21-25 have been added that include features similar to claims 5-9. It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 4 and 20 are in allowable form, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5-9 and 21-25 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 4 and 20.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by an article entitled

"Robust Head Motion Computation by Taking Advantage of Physical Properties" by Liu and Zhang (Liu). Further, claims 3 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over an Liu and an article entitled "Head Pose Estimation Using both Color and Feature Information" by Chen (Chen). In response, claims 1 and 17 have been amended. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 and 17-19, as amended, are patentable over Liu and Chen for at least the following reasons.

As correctly noted by the Examiner, Liu is directed to head motion estimation from five feature points. Liu teaches to perform non-linear operation on more than four points on the face. In stark contrast, the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 17 recite detecting not more than four points. Further, independent claim 1 is directed to a linear method. These features are nowhere taught or suggested in Liu, Chen, or combination thereof, where Chen is cited in rejection claims 3 and 19, and does not remedy the deficiencies in Liu.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 17 be allowed. In addition, as claims 2-3 and 18-19

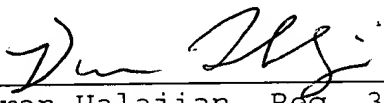
depend from independent claims 1 and 17, applicants respectfully request that claims 2-3 and 18-19 also be allowed.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any informalities remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite allowance.

Please charge any fee deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,


By 
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney
(914) 333-9607
December 21, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

It is hereby certified that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

On December 21, 2004
(Date of Mailing)

By 
(Signature)